

### **REMARKS**

Claims 21, 22, 24 - 26, 28 - 33 are pending in the present application. Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 USC §112. Claims 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31-33 stand rejected under 35 USC §102. Claims 22, 24-26, 28, 29 and 32 stands rejected under 35 USC §103. Applicants have currently amended claim 21 to more particularly point out applicants' invention. Further applicants have amended claim 31 to correct a typographical error.

#### **35 USC §112**

As described on page 17, lines 5 – 21, platinum and iridium may be deposited by sequential graded co-sputtering. Altering the amount of material in each layer creates alternating layers of platinum and iridium which are an *approximately* linear gradient.

#### **35 USC §102**

Applicant has amended claim one to require a “surface coating comprised of a gradient composition, said gradient composition further comprised of alternating layers including a plurality of platinum layers and a plurality of iridium oxide layers.” The prior art of record does not show, either singly or in combination, alternating between a plurality of platinum layers and a plurality of iridium layers.

#### **35 USC §103**

As claim 21 is distinguished over Brennan by the present amendment, the rejection of its dependent claims is moot.

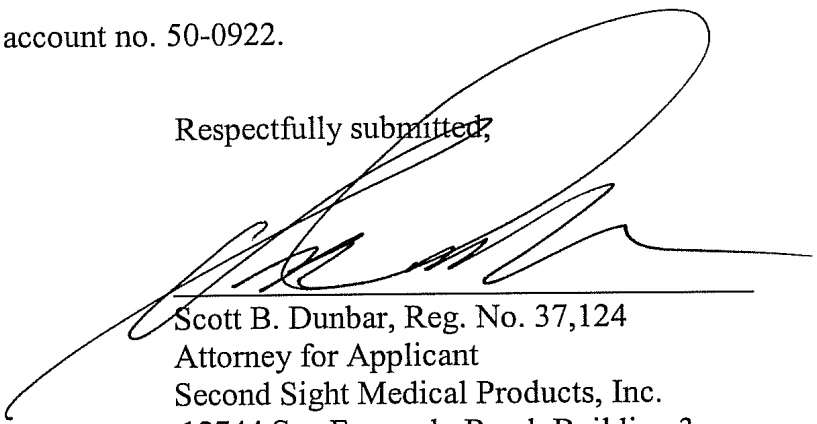
#### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, and the Examiner believes that a teleconference may be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (818) 833-5055 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0922. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0922.

Respectfully submitted,

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